

STATE OF MAINE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Docket No. 2002-665

January 10, 2003

LAURIE A. DOWNS, ET AL VS.	)	TEMPORARY
CENTRAL MAINE POWER COMPANY,	)	PROTECTIVE ORDER NO. 1
Request for Commission Investigation Into	)	Highly Sensitive Critical
the New Central Maine Power Company	)	Energy Infrastructure
Transmission Line Proposal for Eliot, Kittery	)	Information
and York	)	

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Central Maine Power Company (“CMP” or the “Company”) has been asked to provide energy infrastructure information (i.e., EX-01-01: “Please provide one-line diagrams (including characteristics, size, age, rating and capacity) of existing transmission and substation grids for the Southern Maine area under investigation.”) CMP maintains that information of this kind constitutes trade secrets, and that it has value to competitors and others who may seek to harm the Company or its critical energy infrastructure, and that its release to any one other than the Commission and Public Advocate would be damaging to the interests of CMP, its customers and its employees. Further, CMP claims that disclosure of this information should be subject to limited disclosure in order to protect the transmission and distribution system from security threats.

Section 1311-B of Title 35-A of the Maine Revised Statutes grants the Commission authority to issue protective orders to limit access to specific information regarding a utility’s technical operations if that information, if released, could compromise the security of public utility systems to the detriment of the public. *See Maine Public Utilities Commission*, Order, Docket 2001-632, (October 30, 2001). Furthermore, M.R.S.A. §1311-A (1)(A) grants the Commission the authority to issue protective orders to protect the interests of parties in confidential or proprietary information, trade secrets, or similar matters as provided by the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 26(c).

CMP asks to produce the requested information with the condition that, notwithstanding the limitations in 35-A M.R.S.A. §§1311-B and 1311-A(1)(D)(2), a protective scheme be implemented to confine disclosure of the information to the Commission and the Public Advocate. The Public Advocate objects to access being denied to outside consultants. The lead complainant, Laurie A. Downs, objects to being denied access to the confidential information.

CMP has not met its burden in section 1311-A (A)(C) of demonstrating that such energy infrastructure information is confidential business information or trade secrets, or valuable to competitors of a T&D utility. The information, however, may be subject to confidential treatment pursuant to section 1311-B because public release of the information may compromise the security of public utility systems. In order to expedite the provision of this information to the Commission, and to allow the Commission to review the information to determine whether release of the information may compromise the public security, the Hearing Examiner decides to

issue this Temporary Protective Order pursuant to section 1311-B. As the Public Advocate is not among the state agencies to which the Commission can release information protected by section 1311-B, only the Commission and Staff will be allowed access to the confidential information at this time. If the Commission decides to open a formal investigation as requested by the complainants, the Public Advocate and intervenors will have the opportunity to object to granting the information confidential treatment or to seek access to the confidential information. Until this Temporary Protective Order is amended or revoked, however, use of the allegedly confidential materials continues to be restricted as described below.

Accordingly, it is

### **ORDERED**

1. That CMP's Critical Energy Infrastructure Information shall be considered "Designated Confidential Information" for purposes of this Order and, until such time as this Order is modified, access to Designated Confidential Information shall be limited as described in Paragraph 4 below.
2. That all Designated Confidential Business Information shall, unless removed from the coverage of this Order as provided in paragraph 3 below, be and remain confidential. Designated Confidential Information shall not be disclosed for any purpose other than the purposes of this proceeding, and then solely in accordance with this Order. No person to whom access to Designated Confidential Information is accorded pursuant to paragraph 4 of this Order shall disclose or reveal, directly or indirectly, the content of the Designated Confidential Information to others, except as provided in paragraph 4.
3. That the parties may challenge the designation of any or all documents or other information as confidential by motion to the Commission and upon reasonable prior notice to the parties and an opportunity for hearing. Upon the entry of a final unappealed decision granting such a motion, the provisions and restrictions of this Order shall cease to bind any party or other person with respect to the documents or information that the order granting the motion shall have expressly and clearly removed from the coverage of this Order.
4. That, until this Order is modified or revoked, access to Designated Confidential Information shall be limited to (i) Commission members and staff; (ii) a stenographer or reporter recording any hearing in connection with this proceeding; and (iii) counsel for or any other representative of CMP.
5. That all materials claimed by CMP to be Designated Confidential Information under the terms of this Order shall be clearly marked "Confidential and Privileged" by CMP. In the case of documents, each page of any such document shall be stamped "Confidential and Privileged" in bold lettering in the upper right hand corner of each page including the cover letter. Any document or portion thereof not clearly and conspicuously marked "Confidential

and Privileged" in bold lettering shall not be protected under the terms of this Order. Faxed materials should be marked as any other document. With regard to other media, diskettes should be marked "Confidential and Privileged" on the outside and, to the extent possible, each file on the diskette should be similarly identified. Any person or party subject to the terms of this Order who receives unmarked documents or materials which he/she believes CMP intended to be protected by the terms of this Order, and that would have been protected if marked in accordance with this paragraph, shall make a good faith effort to notify CMP of this fact and to avoid use of such documents or materials in a manner inconsistent with protection of such material under this Order.

6. That no copies of Designated Confidential Information furnished by CMP shall be circulated to persons other than those persons who are authorized under Paragraph 4 of this Order to obtain Designated Confidential Information. Documents offered in evidence may be copied as necessary for that purpose. Persons authorized under Paragraph 4 hereof also may take such notes as may be necessary solely for the purposes of this proceeding. Those notes shall also be treated as Designated Confidential Information.
7. That the restrictions upon, and obligations accruing to, persons who become subject to this Order shall not apply to any Designated Confidential Information submitted in accordance with paragraph 1 of this Order if the Commission rules, after reasonable notice and hearing, that the Designated Confidential Information was publicly known at the time it was furnished or has since become publicly known through no fault of the receiving party.
8. That where reference to Designated Confidential Information is required in pleadings, briefs, other legal documents, or argument, that reference shall be by citation of title or exhibit number only or by some other non-confidential description to the extent possible. In those circumstances, counsel shall make every reasonable effort to preserve the confidentiality of material in the sealed record. If counsel shall include Designated Confidential Information in pleadings, briefs, other legal documents, or arguments, that portion of the documents or that portion of the transcript of the argument containing Designated Confidential Information shall be maintained under seal.
9. That the Commission may draw upon all Designated Confidential Information in the record in the deliberation of any decision or order that it may issue, but the Commission will avoid the reproduction in its decision of Designated Confidential Information.
10. That should any appeal of, or other challenge to, the Commission's decision in this proceeding be taken, any portions of the record that have been sealed in accordance with paragraph 8 above shall be forwarded to the courts of this State in accordance with applicable law and procedures, but under seal and so designated in writing for the information of the court.
11. That this Order does not preclude any party from (a) objecting under the Maine Rules of Evidence to the admissibility of any Designated Confidential Information produced by

Central Maine Power Company or (b) objecting, on any substantive or procedural ground, to any subsequent data request or other request for information.

12. That CMP may, at its option, provide to each person (other than the Commissioners or Commission Staff) having access Designated Confidential Information a copy of this Order and require each person to agree in writing to the terms hereof prior to obtaining access to the Designated Confidential Information.
13. That Designated Confidential Information furnished by CMP pursuant to this Order and made part of the record in any proceeding before the Commission shall remain in the possession of the Commission, under seal, and subject to the protective requirements of this Order, until this Commission or its authorized presiding officer shall otherwise order.
14. That this Order may be modified on motion of any party or on the Commission's own motion upon reasonable prior notice to the parties and an opportunity for hearing.
15. That within forty-five (45) days after the Commission reaches a final unappealed decision in this proceeding, copies of Designated Confidential Information and documents, notes and other materials containing or reflecting, directly or indirectly, the Designated Confidential Information, that are in the possession of parties to whom Designated Confidential Information has been made available shall destroy all documents, notes and other materials containing or reflecting, directly or indirectly, the Designated Confidential Information. Audio, video or other such magnetically recorded materials shall be electronically erased before disposal. Documents shall be shredded.
16. That, notwithstanding the requirements of paragraph 15 above, copies of Designated Confidential Information and documents, notes, and other materials that are in the possession of Commission members, counsel or employees of the Commission may be retained by those persons for the purpose of performing those persons' duties and obligations. If retained, the Designated Confidential Information shall be subject to this Protective Order or to a protective order issued in another proceeding in which the Designated Confidential Information is used. If a Commission member, counsel or employee of the Commission does not retain the Designated Confidential Information, that person shall destroy it as provided in paragraph 15 above.

Dated at Augusta, Maine, this 10th day of January, 2003.

BY ORDER OF THE HEARING EXAMINER

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James A. Buckley

